S.P. C. 178

have almost entirely disappeared. Since the second half of the nineteenth century, modern civilization, the school, the obligatory military service, and similar factors have unified them more and more. It is only in Moravia that there still is some slight variety, but it will disappear even there.

S.P. C. 177 101 184

Three principal dialects are recognized in Bohemia: those of the southwest, of the center, and of the northeast. But they do not afford accentuated characteristics which render them immediately recognizable. In contrast, here and there ethnographic islands are met with, which, from the point of view of language and of costume afford special interest and are distinguished by particular names. Thus, not so long ago in the west the area of Plzen and in the east that of Litomysl with the dialect of Orlice had a special physiognomy.

Likewise in the southeast the Blataki (from Blato, swamp, lake, in the area located between Sobieslav* and Trebon*) can be distinguished, and in the region southwest of the Sumava, the Chodes*, the most typical of all of the Czech tribes (1), which were /127/

1. A few notes on the Chodes will be found in my volume, Le Monde slave (2d edition, Paris, 1897, p. 200). Translator.

formerly settled between Domazlice and Tachov, and which are now concentrated around Domazlice, the Tachov area having been partly Germanized. It is in the area of Mount Rip that the true type of Czech peasant is to be found.

The odd character of the Chodes has given rise to the most diverse theories regarding their origin. Formerly Paul Stransky*, and later Ruffer, Erben, Grabowski, suggested that they were Poles settled as colonists by Bretislav I. But their dialect offers not the slightest trace of Polish influence. The uniqueness of the Chodes is explained sufficiently by the mountainous and isolated region which they occupy, by their traditions and the privileges which they have enjoyed since the fourteenth century as guardians of the frontiers.

The origiality of the primitive tribes is better preserved in Moravia. There we may very easily distinguish three different types, not only by dialect, but by physical and ethnographic details, particularly by the costume; even more, the people themselves are conscious of these differences and glad to affirm them. Up until now the things which have been most clearly recognized are the

SP. dialect and the costume. The other signs of differentiation have not
C been studied from a scientific viewpoint. We have noted in the first
197 place, that in the mountain regions of Bohemia and of Moravia there
101 exists a purely Czech element which in the south borders upon
184 German territory.

/128/ In the northeast of Moravia and of Silesia the Lasi are met with (their country is called Lassko); they occupy the region of the Opava and the Czech section of the Tesin (Teschen) area, and in Moravia the area in which are situated the towns of Pribor, Brusperk*, Moravska, Ostrava, Frydlant, etc. The name of Lasi, furthermore, is not commonly used among the people. One finds alongside it those of Valasi* and other local names, Horale*, Kozloviane*, Dulani*, etc. The dialect of these Lasi bears strong traces of Polish influence.

The Valasi, properly speaking, are settled to the south of the Lasi in the region of Vsetin. From a linguistic viewpoint their idiom is very close to that of the Slovaks. But the people distinguish themselves very definitely from the latter, and their dress is completely different.

They are a group of purely Slovak origin who have been given the name of the Rumanian Walachians, who from the eleventh to the twelfth centuries moved into the Little Carpathians and were assimilated by the natives.

The most unusual tribe is that of the Moravian Slovaks, formerly identical with the Slovaks of Hungary, but who are today entirely different from them in life and in customs. In Moravia there remains only a small group of 18 villages which preserves the Hungarian character.

C
[292] Among the Slovaks of Moravia, the national costume still persists in all its brilliance; it /129/ is so varied that an ethnographer has been able to distinguish 28 absolutely different types.

SP
C
101 Pure-blooded Slovaks occupy the southeast corner of Moravia.
184 To their groups are attached three former Croatian villages, which they have assimilated.

All the rest of Moravia belongs to the Hanaks*. Just as the Slovaks are lively and cheerful, the Hanaks are calm and apathetic. Their center is located on the river Hana, a tributary of the Morava which gives them their name.

S.P.C. 181 184

Their principal towns are: Prerov, Olomouc (Ollmutz) and Prostejov. They are divided into the Red Hanaks and the Yellow Hanaks, according to the color of their breeches. Various tribes are recognized among them: those of the Baniaks*, of the Blataks*, of the Zabeczaks*, of the Moravicks*, names which refer to certain details of topography.

S.P.C. 101 134 177

The Slovak territory can be divided up only on a theoretical basis. From the dialectological viewpoint, it divides itself into three areas: that of the west on the Nitra and the Vah, that of the center (upon the Hron and upper Vah), that of the east which reaches from Gemer* and Liptov as far as the national frontier. The inhabitants of this area are considered by many ethnographers as Slovakized Russians, and it is a fact that in the counties of Spis, of Sarys*, of Zemplin and of Ujgorod (Ungvar) the Russians are becoming more and /130/ more Slovakized. One of the most remarkable of these groups is that of the Sotaks* in the county of Zemplin.

They are so called because they say so instead of tso /co, what/ and have nothing to do with the Satagues* of Jordanes.

S.P.C. 101 184

Let us also mention as local names those of the Magurani* in the county of Spis, of the Trpaci* in that of Niredhazy*. Among the Slovak groups, the most unusual is that of the Detva, in the county of Zvolen: a Hungarian ethnographer, O. Hermann, chose to see in the Detvanci colonists from Hercegovina, but he is mistaken.

S.P.C. 101 184 463

The ancient ethnographers, and, following them, many modern books, indicate as forming special tribes those persons who work as peddlers, broom-makers, galziers, etc., who merely represent nomadic types common to all nationalities.

However, representatives of certain industries are natives of certain regions, for example, the dratenici, sellers of articles made from iron wire, are natives of the county of Trencsin, etc. (1)

1. Likewise in France, certain artisans are especially natives of the Creuse, the Auvergne, of Savoy, etc. Translator.

S.P.C. 184

What is of much greater interest from the Czech viewpoint than these local shades of difference, is the distinction which exists between the /131/ Czechs and the Slovaks of Hungary. This distinction arose a long time ago; it has been sanctioned by a long separation; the

1: Niederle--83 E-5 1911 Slavic Peoples E16
Czechoslovakia E81

S.P. C. 184 Slovaks broke away from the Bohemian crown in 1031; despite the relations which they have maintained since that time with the Czechs, and many attempts to bring them more closely together, the separation persists and, except for an unexpected miracle, it will finally lead to the division of the formerly single nationality into two different nations.

S.P. C. 175 182 [197] During long centuries, the Czechs and the Slovaks of Hungary, even though they spoke different dialects, had neither the same costumes nor the same customs, and were living under different sovereigns and in different states, were nevertheless not conscious of these differences. Their literary representations proclaimed the unity of their language and rejoiced in it.

Attempts have been made in these latter days to demonstrate that the Slovaks were of a non-Czech origin, that they have merely been Czechized by the influence of religious literature, and that the divergences which have recently occurred were only a return toward an ancient state of affairs.

S.P. C. [197] This thesis, which was that of Czambel, recently deceased, is not sufficiently well-founded. What is certain, on the contrary, is that the Slovaks and the Czechs at the outset formed an ethnic and linguistic unit with some /132/ dialectal differences, a unit which occupied the region located to the south of the Sudeten and Carpathian mountains. But this common domain was divided by the Carpathians into two regions, one of which had its center to the west, the other to the east. These geographic conditions gave birth to two political organisms. The Danube, which was their natural bond, fell into the hands of the Germans. In 1631 the Slovak areas were detached from Bohemia and from Moravia. The religious and literary ties between the two groups in no wise succeeded in reuniting the broken bonds.

The differences between the two peoples grew more and more pronounced. Among the upper classes the idea developed that they belonged to different states, to another fatherland, that they had a different ideal of autonomy. These ideas were expressed for the first time in 1787 and towards the end of the first half of the nineteenth century, at the period when the Slovak literature broke away from the Czech literature.

Beginning with this period the Czechs had to reckon with this

4: Cross L-5 (no date) 1948 E16 Slavs E16

than 1167, and long before that date the process of extermination or assimilation had set in. 177

In view of the latest developments in modern history, let us pause a moment on the origins of the Czechoslovaks. The primeval habitat of Czechs and Slovaks was located north of the Carpathians between the headwaters of the Oder and the middle Vistula. The Czechs reached Bohemia and Moravia by the upper reaches of the Neisse and Oder and westward through the Sudeten range and between the Gesenke and the Jablunka. The Slovaks, on the other hand, arrived in their present location between the Morava and the Danube by passing the western Carpathians (that is, the Beskids and the High Tatra south of modern Krakow). The western limits of the Czechs were thus the Böhmer Wald and the Erzgebirge, while on the north they enjoyed a good natural frontier in the mountains from the Sudetens to the Carpathians. On the south the Bohemians and Moravians originally extended to the Danube, but were gradually pushed back along the river between Linz and Vienna until the twelfth century, though the Slovaks maintained contact with it at Bratislava (Pressburg). The western Slovak limit is still roughly the river Morava, which joins the Danube about thirty miles east of Vienna. 167

There is no longer much question but that the Czech and the Slovak languages were originally an identical dialect just as their speakers were primitively one group, but even in modern times there is an appreciable diversity of dialect, culture, and character among various sections of even the Czechs themselves, and the present differentiation of the Slovaks was conditioned and intensified by geographical separation from the Czechs and by the long-standing political dominance of the Magyars since 1029. The intellectual gap between Czech and Slovak is also due to the rapid Czech assimilation of German culture. Finally, at the extreme east end of the state of Czechoslovakia is an area known as Subcarpathian Russia. Its inhabitants speak a Ukrainian (Little Russian) dialect per- 197 184